

Remarks

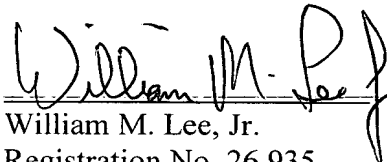
The above amendments are being made in order to eliminate multiple dependency and improper multiple dependency from the application before calculation of the application filing fee. Should any multiple dependency remain, that is unintended, and the Patent and Trademark Office is requested to cancel any remaining multiple dependent claims before calculation of the application filing fee.

The international preliminary examination report reaches the conclusion that the claims meet the requirements of novelty and inventive step (non-obviousness). It is submitted that the same results should occur in the United States.

Examination of the application on its merits is awaited.

January 3, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,935  
Lee, Mann, Smith, McWilliams,  
Sweeney & Ohlson  
P.O. Box 2786  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786  
(312) 368-6620  
(312) 368-0034 (fax)

09/743132